

## RECOVERY SUPPORT FUNCTION (RSF) 4

### HOUSING

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#### LEAD AGENCY:

- N.H. Housing Finance Authority (NHHFA)

#### SUPPORT AGENCIES:

- N.H. Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM)
- Long-Term Recovery Committee, Housing Task Force
- N.H. Community Development Finance Authority (CDFA)
- N.H. Office of Energy and Planning (OEP)
- N.H. Attorney General's Office (AG)
- N.H. Insurance Department
- N.H. Department of Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal (Fire Marshal)

#### INTRODUCTION

##### Purpose

The purpose of RSF 4 – Housing is to address pre- and post-disaster housing issues and coordinate and facilitate the delivery of resources and activities to assist those affected in the rehabilitation and reconstruction of destroyed and damaged housing, whenever feasible, and development of other new permanent housing options that satisfy the requirements of individuals with functional needs, at a minimum meeting Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility standards.

##### Scope

The core recovery capability for housing is the ability to implement housing solutions that effectively support the needs of the whole community and contribute to its sustainability and resilience. Local economies cannot recover from devastating disasters without adequate housing, especially affordable housing. It is challenging because many years' worth of housing repair, rehabilitation, reconstruction and new construction often need to occur at an accelerated pace as a result of a disaster. These conditions create design, construction, labor, materials, logistics, inspection, and financing issues.

RSF 4, through its member departments and agencies, works toward addressing disaster housing issues pre-disaster, focusing on solutions that are implementable, sustainable, and resilient. RSF 4 coordinates and effectively integrates available housing-related resources, addresses conflicting policy and program issues, and identifies gaps in service and assistance delivery.

RSF 4 involves interim, short-term, and long-term housing, per the New England Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Initiative (NERCPI) Disaster Housing Project:

- Interim Housing: The intermediate period of housing assistance that covers the gap between sheltering and the return of disaster survivors to permanent housing. Generally, this period may span from the day after the disaster is declared through up to 18

months.

- Short-term Housing: Refers to the states of "sheltering" and "interim housing."
- Long-term Housing: Accessible, safe, sanitary, and secure housing that can be sustained without continued disaster-related assistance.

### Objectives

- Housing resources that address local and State disaster recovery housing needs are coordinated.
- Planning for current and post-disaster requirements are integrated into the organizations at the local and State level that perform community planning and building code administration.
- Local, State, and federal programs for addressing post-disaster housing needs are understood and in place.
- Interagency knowledge and expertise are shared with State-led housing task forces to address disaster housing issues.
- Pre- and post-disaster interaction and problem solving are facilitated among federal agencies, the State, and local stakeholders, with a focus on reconstructing permanent housing, including affordable and ADA accessible housing that incorporates resilience, sustainability, and mitigation concepts.
- Timely construction of housing that complies with local, State, and national model building codes, including accessibility standards, is facilitated.
- Loss of community assets and historic and cultural resources is minimized.

## ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

### New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority (NHHFA)

#### Pre-Disaster

- Support HSEM to identify representatives for a Long-Term Recovery Committee (Recovery Committee) from across the community including government, NGOs, and the private sector, for the purpose of guiding the recovery process and establishing leadership and coordination.
- With HSEM, develop a Housing Task Force under the Recovery Committee to address housing-specific recovery issues.
- Collect, store, and protect data concerning current stock and condition of housing, which may include, but is not limited to, the information generated by the HFA as well as from the following agencies/organizations:
  - Local Housing Authorities
  - N.H. Department of Revenue Administration
  - U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
  - U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development
  - U.S. Census Bureau
  - Commercial Housing Organizations, (e.g., Northern New England Real Estate Network, The Warren Group)
  - Property Owner Association

#### Post-Disaster

- Maintain robust and accessible communications throughout the recovery process among

State, federal, and local governments, and all other partners, to ensure ongoing dialogue and information sharing.

- With the Housing Task Force, implement funded programs to facilitate long-term reconstruction and relocation, to include technical assistance and financial tools related to rebuilding in-place and/or permanent relocation, if necessary.

## Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM)

### Pre-Disaster

- Identify representatives for the Recovery Committee from across the community including government, NGOs, and the private sector for the purpose of guiding the housing recovery process and establishing leadership and coordination.
- With NHHFA, develop and implement the Housing Task Force, including but not limited to representatives from the following:
  - NHHFA
  - CDFA
  - Fire Marshal
  - Professional Housing Organizations
- Identify statutory, regulatory, and policy issues that contribute to gaps, inconsistencies, and unmet needs in housing disaster survivors.
- Produce a biennial housing plan for the State, as well as the HUD-required Consolidated Plan, which coordinates DHHS's Bureau of Housing and Homeless (Emergency Solutions Grant) with CDFA (CDBG funds) and NHHFA (HOME funds).
- Coordinate educational and cross-training opportunities for key participants in housing. Create, encourage, and participate in disaster recovery exercises to enhance skills and develop needed techniques.
- Support the Housing Task Force's efforts to integrate mitigation, recovery, and other pre-disaster plans and activities into existing local and state community-wide planning and development activities, such as comprehensive plans, economic development plans, affordable housing plans, zoning ordinances, and other development regulations through technical assistance.

### Post-Disaster

- Conduct detailed housing damage and needs assessments, based on an estimate/assessment of the numbers of people displaced, the likelihood and timeline of their residences being able to be reoccupied, and their current sheltering situation.
- Provide technical assistance and administer funding associated with physical mitigation of new permanent long-term housing against relevant hazards.
- Coordinate with *ESF #15 – Public Information* to support the Housing Task Force in providing public information related to long-term housing.
- Establish mechanisms for tracking recovery progress, to include monitoring the Individual Assistance (IA) process, tracking rehousing for disaster survivors, etc.

## Housing Task Force

### Pre-Disaster

- Develop strategies to address interim housing issues. Interim housing is period of housing assistance that covers the gap between sheltering and the return of disaster

survivors to permanent housing.

- With the support of local communities, OEP, HSEM, and NHHFA integrate housing-related mitigation, recovery, and other pre-disaster plans and activities into existing local and State community-wide planning and development activities, such as comprehensive plans, economic development plans, affordable housing plans, zoning ordinances, and other development regulations through technical assistance.

### **Post-Disaster**

- Develop event-specific policies, procedures, and programs to implement housing reconstruction and relocation strategies.
- Coordinate long-term housing recovery efforts with state and federal recovery programs. Promote, incentivize, or directly provide for the permanent rehabilitation and reconstruction of destroyed and damaged housing, whenever feasible, and develop other new accessible, permanent housing options.
- Provide public information in accessible formats related to long-term housing.

## **Community Development Finance Authority (CDFA)**

### **Pre-Disaster**

- Participate in the Housing Task Force of the Recovery Committee.

### **Post-Disaster**

- Support the Housing Task Force in the coordination of long-term housing recovery efforts with State and federal recovery programs.

## **Office of Energy and Planning**

### **Pre-Disaster**

- Support the Housing Task Force's efforts to integrate mitigation, recovery, and other pre-disaster plans and activities into existing local, Statewide planning and development activities, such as comprehensive plans, economic development plans, affordable housing plans, zoning ordinances, and other development regulations through technical assistance.

## **Attorney General's Office (AG)**

### **Pre-Disaster**

- With the Insurance Department, provide education to carriers concerning the State's expectations of their conduct during a post-disaster situation.

### **Post-Disaster**

- Establish and implement consumer-protection reporting and safeguards.
- Monitor insurance issues with the Insurance Commission.

## **N.H. Insurance Department**

### **Pre-Disaster**

- With the AG, provide education to carriers concerning the State's expectations of their conduct during a post-disaster situation.
- Ensure plans exist to deal with a post-disaster increase in consumer complaints.

### **Post-Disaster**

- Support AG to monitor insurance issues.

## **N.H. Department of Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal (Fire Marshal)**

### **Pre-Disaster**

- Assist local authorities in clearly identifying an agency with the legal and regulatory authority to inspect and condemn damaged structures.

### **Post-Disaster**

- Provide technical assistance to local authorities related to housing inspections.

## **DEVELOPMENT, MAINTENANCE AND IMPLEMENTATION**

Development, maintenance, and implementation of this RSF will be as outlined in the base Recovery Plan.

## **AUTHORITIES**

Refer to Authorities listed in Chapter 1 of the base Recovery Plan.

## **REFERENCES**

In addition to those listed in the base Recovery Plan, the following references are pertinent this RSF Annex.

- NERCPI Disaster Housing Project